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Letter, 1862 April 23, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Camp at Monterey Cal.

April 23. 1862.

Dear Mother and Sisters,

Having nothing to do,
and thinking you would like to hear
from me, I have concluded to write.
This makes the third letter I have
written without having received an
answer, I suppose you have written but
I have not received any.

In my last I gave a description
of the fight we had, we had ninety-
seven men and the Rebels had between
seven and eight hundred, with three
pieces of artillery and a squadron
or two of Cavalry. They were about
to make an attack on Milroy who
only had six companies of the 32nd Inf.
under him until we arrived from
Craigslist bottom distance six miles,
as soon as we arrived we were
ordered to move up the Mountain
and engage them and hold them

in check as long as possible, we did so holding about 800 men with 9 we were at it about three hours but it did not seem more than a half an hour, at the end of two hours and a half we had to retire we did so in good order keeping up the fire. At this time I told Swope he had better send to Milroy for a piece of artillery and shell them out of the woods, in a short time it came (we were about two miles and a half from the main body of our forces) and we had the pleasure of seeing them driven back in double quick! Gen Milroy had orders from Fremont not to advance farther than this place or we would have followed them and been in Staunton before this time, as it was our Cavalry pursued them for several miles and we returned to camp. They had fortified Shanandoah Mountain and were to have made a stand there but

Banks and his diversion were about
to cut them off so they left and
are now probably in Richmond
under the eye of Jeff Davis,
I understood that Gen Milroy
went to Staunton yesterday with
an escort of about fifty Cavalry.
Banks is said to be in Staunton.
Since coming here we have taken
about fifteen prisoners, bushwhackers
and "Sixie Boy" &c &c, a sort of
roving band of outlaws who
plunder from Union & Secession
families, one of them is a notorious
bushwacker and has killed several
Union men, he I think will be shot.
Inclosed I send you a view of the
place where we had our fight.

The road bends to the right from where
you lose sight of it at the first
hill, then on the Crab Mt. it goes to the
left, where you lose sight of it on this
hill is where our company were fired
on, then we remained about two hours
under a cross fire from where you see

two flags, below the two Rebel flags
you can see ours, that is near the
place where we were. The trees
were not large enough to shelter
us so we had to take it. Co. D.
had two one wounded that was
done by getting too close together
and not deploying as Skirmishers.
It was very lucky that we got
off without a scratch.

Gen Johnsons Report which we
have seen states that he was,
or had made an attack on
Milroy, but was driven back
by ten thousand men and ten
pieces of artillery, when in fact
there was but 97 men and
one piece of artillery.

Nothing more I hope this will
reach you. write immediately.

affectionately

Monterey Highland Co. Va. O. S. Ladd

My love to Ann, and all the
Fannies.

All well. Remember me to all.